Including these, the total provision required on account of the situation created by the War would approximate Rs. 27·62 lakhs.

I shall now proceed to sketch in detail some of the important items that deserve notice in the budget estimates of 1119.

RECEIPTS

Compared with the revised estimate of receipts, *viz.*, Rs. 164·08 lakhs, of the current year, the budget estimate anticipates an increase of Rs. 19·09 lakhs. Of these, Miscellaneous accounts for Rs. 14·18 lakhs, Customs Rs. 5·51 lakhs and Abkari and Ganja Rs. 5·53 lakhs.

The largest increase occurs under Miscellaneous where, a receipt of Rs. 14·35 lakhs is anticipated by the sale of the Hill paddy produce. Again, the sum of Rs. 2 lakhs transferred from the Revenue Reserve Fund finds its credit under this head and this also contributes to the large increase therein.

On the basis of the actuals realised at the Port of Cochin for 1942—43 we have budgetted under Customs for Rs. 30 lakhs as against the revised estimate of Rs. 24·49 lakhs.

Based on the rentals fetched at auction sales the budget estimate under Abkari and Ganja has been fixed at Rs. 16·52 lakhs as against the revised estimate of Rs. 10·99 lakhs.

Due to the continuance of the demand for timber and the higher prices fetched the receipts under Forests and Tramway are still on the forward trend anticipating an increase of Rs. 1·70 lakhs over the revised estimate of Rs. 11·21 lakhs.

Against these substantial increases are also anticipated falls in revenue under cretain items the more important of which occur under Income-tax, Railway, and interest.

The operations of the Excess Profits Tax and the Super-tax are not expected to give us the same return as in the current year and hence we are cautiously budgetting for a return of Rs. 25 lakhs only under Income-tax in the coming year. On account of the increased traffic the Railway is expected to yield the larger return though not to the same extent as in the current year the budget estimate being fixed at Rs. 35 lakhs *i.e.*, Rs. 1·57 lakhs less than the revised estimate. Again, the withdrawals of fixed deposits and the amounts in the current account necessitated for financing the purchase of food grains, etc., will reduce the return under interest by Rs. 0·72 lakh as compared with the revised estimate of Rs. 3·35 lakhs.

DISBURSEMENTS

As already explained by me before, the demands of the several departments have been carefully scrutinised by the Government and generally only provisions tending towards the amelioration of the people have been retained. Thus the usual contribution of Rs. 2 lakhs from Revenue Reserve Fund for purposes of rural development is proposed to be continued in the coming year; increased allotments have been provided under Public Works, Education, Medical, Ayurveda, etc.

The total thus provided in the budget estimate for the next year is Rs. 166·88 lakhs which exceeds the revised estimate of the current year by Rs. 16·46 lakhs.

I shall now pass on to deal with some of the important items which may require observation.

Development and Nation-building services

Agriculture.—The State is essentially rural; it is a land of agriculturists and yet there is insufficiency of food in our country. We have to make ourselves self-sufficient so far as food is concerned and attempts in this direction are seen reflected in the budget before you. An area of more than 11,000 acres have been newly brought under cultivation on the lease system. The Agricultural Inspectors continue their special activities connected with the food production drive. The manure depots attached to Panchayats are proposed to be continued with a larger allotment of Rs. 1·35 lakhs under "Advance for purchase of manure and implements" to ryots. The "Grow More Food" campaign will be carried on with greater intensity and larger provisions for irrigation facilities both under Public Works Department and the Panchayats and for protective works under the former have been made. Tobacco cultivation is proposed to be begun with the help of the inspector sent to study tobacco farming elsewhere. Demonstration in ryots' lands is continued. A dairy section has been organised in the Central Farm on up-to-date lines for which the required provision is made. A scheme of extending veterinary services to each Panchayat area is under consideration and a beginning is made for training Stock-men Compounders in Veterinary Hospitals.

Co-operation.—The efficient organisation of Co-operative Societies in villages plays an important part in rural economy as it helps the ryot and rural worker to stand on his own legs. A committee is now enquiring into the working of the department and to suggest methods of

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improving its usefulness and efficiency. Meanwhile the societies are encouraged by grants to Unions and the appointment at Government cost of secretaries to non-credit societies. Three more secretaries are proposed to be given to such societies in the coming year. Experiments are also being made by handing over the management of rural industrial schools to co-operative non-credit societies with a view to encourage the formation of more such societies. The Central Marketing Society has been receiving grants for some years and a sum of Rs. 50,000 has now been advanced to this society for the production of Standard Cloth through weaving societies from yarn obtained at panel prices at the instance of the Government.

Industries (Reserved and Transferred)—The Industries department too is as usual, contributing its mite in the development of cottage industries through its net work of schools, subsidies and loans under the State Aid to Industries Act. The post of an Assistant Director of Industries with staff has been created in the course of the year specially to look after the development of cottage industries and the Rural Development Centre at Cherpu is proposed to be placed under him with the same object in view. A special contribution of Rs. 8,000 is proposed for the coming year for the development of spinning and other kindred cottage industries. The manufacture of hand-made paper as a cottage industry seems to have a future and necessary provision has been made towards the pay of an expert and the incidental expenses. A total provision of Rs. 4,500 is proposed for opening an Industrial Museum.

Besides the allotment of Rs. 30,000 under "Advances for Industrial Purposes", a sum of Rs. 1 lakh has been provided under the same head in connection with Industries connected with war supplies and another Rs. 1 lakh for the development of cottage industries. These activities are sure to give an impetus to the expansion and development of our rural industries in post-war years besides giving liberal wages at present.

Before giving this subject I have to add that this department has been entrusted with the work of purchasing and distributing the State's quota of standard cloth. This accounts for the provision of Rs. 31·20 lakhs under Advances.—Advance for purchase of Standard Cloth.

I now pass on to purely Nation-building services as Education, Medical, Public Health, Ayurveda and Panchayats.

Education.—In the budget estimate of the current year we provided for Rs. 20·49 lakhs and according to the revised estimate it is expected to be exceeded by nearly Rs. 1 lakh. For the next year the budget estimate is fixed at Rs. 22·85 lakhs, *i.e.*, Rs. 1·40 lakhs in excess of the revised estimate. The hitherto neglected side of physical education is, as in the last year, receiving greater attention; some more hands have been sent for physical training and adequate provision has been made for acquision, etc., of more play grounds. For more efficient supervision the posts of a new Deputy Inspector and staff were created in the course of the year. The provision of Rs. 10,000 made in the current year for giving noon-day meals to the poor children attending schools has been doubled for the coming year. A long-standing grievance of the department has been that many officiating teachers are thrown out on the eve of the long vacation and to remedy it, it has been decided to retain such teachers during vacation also for which a lump provision of Rs. 10,000 has been made. Under Grant-in-aid has been included enhanced provision for aiding the posts of specialists created in 1113 and also the posts in vernacular schools created in 1116 besides a contribution of Rs. 0·78 lakh towards dearness allowance to the teachers. Provision has further been made for the assumption of management of the Radha Lakshmi Vilas Fine Arts School and for the affiliation of the Maharaja's College in Arabic.

It may not be out of place if I here express a word of caution that the yearly growth of expenditure on Education, however useful, cannot but be viewed without anxiety. I seriously apprehend that when our finances stabilise after the cessation of the war, the large revenues we anticipate in the coming year under Forests, Excise, Customs, Railway and Income-tax may not repeat themselves and ways and means may then have to be found to finance the disproportionate requirements under Education.

Medical, Public Health and Ayurveda.—The three sister departments looking after the preventive and curative sides of the physical well-being of His Highness' subjects have received increased allotments in the coming year.

The appointment of a Radiologist in the grade of an assistant surgeon, the creation of the post of an additional sub-assistant surgeon at State cost for Cranganur, the new ward in the Chalakkudi hospital donated by Mr. Kattakayom, increased provisions for dietary charges, cost of medicines, bedding and clothing, the debit of the whole cost of the Hill dispensary at Kuriarkutty to the medical department are some of the new features of the Medical budget.

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Public Health gets the usual provision for continuing its activities while enhanced provisions have been made under Ayurveda for the opening of four more Ayurvedic hospitals and six new Vaidyasalas. According to the wishes expressed in the council a full-fledged hospital with an inpatient ward of a few beds will be soon opened at Ernakulam. At Vilvattam a new Vaidyasala is proposed to be started for running which Sir K. Ravunny Menon has offered a donation of Rs. 10,000. The donation of Sir K. Ravunny Menon for this Vaidyasala, of Mr. Kattakayom for the new Ward at Chalakkudi are examples worthy of emulation by all who can afford it. The manufacture of medicines and their sale in the Rama Varma Central Ayurvedic Hospital is becoming a very popular measure.

Public works.—The Public Works department gets an enhanced allotment of Rs. 4·19 lakhs over the revised estimate of Rs. 13·55 lakhs and various works of public utility have been programmed for the next year. Due to the increased cost of materials and labour it has been found impossible to maintain the roads satisfactorily with the usual allotments and hence an increased provision of Rs. 1·80 lakhs has been made under road maintenance. Liberal provisions have been made under Irrigation Original Works-with a view to stimulate food production-the more important of which are the Kambalathara Reservoir, the bunds in Elamkulam, Protection of Kari Nilams in Amballur and Keecheri Villages, the Puthur river diversion scheme, the Vettuveli Bund and the Lift Irrigation scheme at Desamangalam. A sum of Rs. 0·75 lakh has been allotted for continuing the work of constructing groynes in the coastal area for prevention of sea erosions. A provision of over Rs. 1 lakh has also been made for the construction of an additional tank in Ernakulam for the storage of Alwaye water. A small beginning was made in 1118 to provide play grounds in schools and in continuance of this programme an increased allotment of Rs. ·30 lakh has been made in the next year's budget.

Panchayats.—As adverted to by the Hon'ble the Minister in the last budget session and in furtherance of the Village Courts Bill passed by this House, the Panchayat courts have been separated from the department of Panchayats and constituted under a separate head of department designated as Registrar of Village Courts. Provision has been made for constituting more courts next year and with their constitution all the Villages of the State outside Municipal limits will be under the jurisdiction of one Village Court or other. It can be hoped that these courts will be of useful service to our village folks.

In spite of the transfer of these courts to a different head of account costing Rs. 0·50 lakh, the Panchayat department has been given the usual allotment of Rs. 4·04 lakhs. A special contribution of Rs. 1·85 lakhs has been given from the Revenue Reserve Fund mostly for the continuance of the intensive programme of 'irrigation' begun last year and this contribution has been made non-lapsable as in previous years. The Panchayats have generally been allowed to carry out all the works departmentally and adequate advances are also given to them for this purpose. It is up to them now to make best use of the lump allotments and the increased facilities now given to them to the lasting benefit of the villagers entrusted to their stewardship.

Socio-Economic Services

Passing on, I now come to the Socio-economic services like Co-operation, and Uplift of the depressed classes. Of Co-operation I have already spoken and there remains Uplift of the depressed classes. Though the budget estimate for the current year was fixed at Rs. 0·71 lakh, the revised estimate rose to Rs. 0·81 lakh and and we have budgetted for the coming year Rs. 0·89 lakh. More scholarships for students from depressed classes have been provided for their collegiate education; again, a sum of Rs. 5,000 has been provided out of the special contribution from Revenue Reserve Fund for development of cottage industries in depressed classes colonies. The usual provisions are made for colonies and educational services.

Collection Services

There is not much for me to dilate upon the provisions made under what is known as "Collection services" *viz.* Land Revenue, Excise, Customs, Forests and Tramway, Registration, Anchal, Stamps and Income-tax. The prospect of local manufacture of salt which was under investigation by a late officer of the Madras salt department has been found to be hopeful and a lump provision of Rs. 0·60 lakh has been made for working out the scheme the details of which will be expounded by the member for Excise when his turn comes. Anchal rates have been slightly raised and this is expected to bring some additional income. The growing volume of work in the Income-tax department as reflected in the larger receipts, etc., has, as has been already indicated by me elsewhere, necessitated the organisation of a new Income-tax office with an officer on Rs. 150—200 and the necessary staff. The high income anticipated from the department may necessitate larger refunds which mainly account for the increase in the budget

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